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~~TOP SECRET~~

NSC BRIEFING

11 August 1954

BACKGROUND - BOMB LOAD VARIATIONS

- I. By decreasing the Type 37's bomb load from 10 to 3 thousand lbs. and putting the 7 thousand lb. saving into fuel, the combat radius/range is slightly extended.
- II. However, a 3,000 lb. nuclear weapon would be only marginally acceptable as a strategic weapon.
 - A. If economically constructed, a 3,000 lb. weapon could yield some 20KT--equal to the Nagasaki bomb.
 - B. If extravagant and inefficient use of nuclear material permitted, this yield could be boosted.
- III. Uneconomical use of nuclear material in 1957 appears improbable, since the Soviet stockpile at that date will still be relatively modest.

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	US B-52
Take off weight	390,000 lbs.
Bomb load	10,000 lbs.
Combat radius	3,160 nm.
Combat range	6,560 nm.
Target altitude	46,700 ft.
Maximum target speed	480 kts.

* "Basic Mission" contrasts with "Optimum Mission" in that all conditions assumed for an "Optimum Mission" are aimed at maximum possible fuel-load and therefore absolute maximum radius/range.